

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

TO:

She came to my lab at Madison very well recommended by H J Muller and F. Haverwitz -- their letters are enclosed. Tom Sonnenbom noted that her course grades were less than perfect but all her referees took note that she was heavily burdened with financial responsibility.

In my lab I found her to merit the most positive lysate status of her former teachers she worked hard and intelligently. But the problem I recommended for her turned out to be very messy -- in fact it has not been resolved to this day! It concerned claims by Larry Weed that Cu⁺⁺ induced (not selected!) small

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

TO: Professor Ethel Szent
U. of Wis. / Madison
12/24/80

Helen (Byus) Bernstein

asked me to write on her behalf.

In view of the address, I hope you will accept, and can read, this memo script.

Helen was a graduate student in Genetics 25 years ago when we were at Madison. I have only sketchy records, and I have barely followed her professional career in the interval; but I will do my best to be helpful to her and to your search committee. I am sure you can readily get more documentary material from UW/Madison.

I do enclose a few documents from the limited file I do have.

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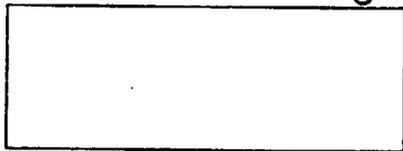
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cloning variants in *E. coli*.

We were not able to come to a clear conclusion whether the asserted phenomenon claimed by Weed can be elicited in a way that makes it amenable to investigation. Not a felicitous choice of a thesis problem!

Helen worked in my lab. I believe from Sept. 1952 through June 1955. At that time she married Dr. Aleks Bernstein, a postdoctoral visitor from London, and joined him upon return to England.



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You must be well represented with their further careers, and of course with the unhappy part of Aleks's death.

I had and have high regard and expectations of Helen but I doubt if I can add anything from my ancient recollections that would be nearly as important as your more recent experience of her work and personality. Our own paths diverged in 1955 but I, and the truth, would be offended if that were given any pejorative implication.

Sincerely,
Joshua Lederberg

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